



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/574,579	04/04/2006	Ryutaro Yamanaka	L9289.06131	9318
52989 7590 10/19/2007 STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, LLP 1615 L. STREET N.W. SUITE 850 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			EXAMINER QUADER, FAZLUL	
			ART UNIT 2169	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/19/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/574,579

Applicant(s)

YAMANAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Fazlul Quader

Art Unit

2169

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 April 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/4/2006
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 13-21 are pending in this application.
2. Claims 1-12 have been cancelled by the applicant.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (US 6226589), hereinafter "Maeda" in view of Shimizu et al. (US 20030109246), hereinafter "Shimizu".
5. As to claim 13, Maeda discloses, a search support apparatus comprising: a search condition registration section that registers object search conditions (col. 8, lines 10-12); a communication section that detects a communication apparatus which exists in a communication area, receives information about the object under the control of said communication apparatus and transmits the search conditions registered in said search

condition registration section to said communication apparatus (abs., lines 5-9; col. 8, lines 26-28);

a control section that compares the information about the object received from said communication section with the search conditions registered in said search condition (col. 4, lines 66-67), transmits said comparison result to said communication apparatus through said communication section (col. 4, lines 61-62), receives the comparison result from said communication apparatus through said communication section and outputs a control signal for controlling a reporting operation according to both the transmitted and received comparison results (col. 4, line 57-col. 5, line 2); and

a reporting section that executes a reporting operation through the control signal output from said control section, wherein said search condition registration section registers personal information about a user who uses the apparatus and object information such as characteristics and preferences of the person as said object search conditions (col. 8, lines 14-15), and said control section comprises a confirmation section that confirms, when both said transmitted and received comparison results match (col. 4, line 57-col. 5, line 2), permission to transmit the personal information registered in said search condition registration section to said communication apparatus and transmits, when the transmission is permitted, said personal information to said communication apparatus through said communication section (col. 18, lines 10-13).

Maeda, however, does not explicitly disclose, "registration section";

Shimizu, on the other hand, discloses, "registration section" ([0056], lines 1-7).

Both Maeda and Shimizu are of the same field of endeavor, they specifically teach detecting and accessing an object (Maeda: abs., lines 5-9; Shimizu: [0001])

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teachings of Shimizu into Maeda of detecting and accessing a mobile object, that would have allowed users of Maeda to have an useful method, to switching to various modes. (Shimizu: [0001], lines 4-8).

6. As to claim 14, Maeda as modified discloses, the search support apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said control section measures a distance from said communication apparatus based on the reception intensity of the received signal by said communication section, generates and outputs said control signal according to said measured distance (col. 14, line 57-col. 5, line 2), and said reporting section changes the contents of the reporting operation according to the control signal output from said control section (col. 17, lines 52-67).

7. As to claim 15, Maeda as modified discloses, the search support apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said reporting section comprises a vibration control

section (col. 1, line 51-col. 2, line 20) and a vibration section and the vibration control section changes the intensity or the period of vibration of the vibration section according to the control signal output from said control section (col. 3, lines 27-36).

8. As to claim 16, Maeda as modified discloses, the search support apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said reporting section comprises a sound information storage section, a sound reproduction section, a volume control section and a sound generation section (col. 6, lines 62-67), and the sound reproduction section selects sound information stored in the sound information storage section according to the control signal output from said control section, outputs a reproduction sound signal and volume control signal to the volume control section and controls the amount of said reproduced sound generated (col. 1, lines 19-29).

9. As to claim 17, Maeda as modified discloses, the search support apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said reporting section comprises a blink period light-emitting intensity control section and a light-emitting section, and the blink period light-emitting intensity control section changes the blink period or the light-emitting intensity of the light-emitting section according to the control signal output from said control section (col. 7, lines 1-5).

10. As to claim 18, Maeda as modified discloses, the search support apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said reporting section comprises an image information

Art Unit: 2169

storage section (col. 8, lines 27-37), an image reproduction section and a display section, and the image reproduction section selects image information stored in the image storage section according to the control signal output from said control section, outputs an image reproduction signal to the display section and displays a reproduced image (col. 7, lines 1-5).

11. As to claim 19, the claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 13. In addition, Shimizu discloses, ““smell” detection, transmission and reproduction (Shimizu: [0017], lines 1-8).

12. As to claim 20, Maeda as modified discloses, the search support apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising an image-pickup section that performs image pickup in a plurality of image-pickup modes, wherein said control section comprises an image-pickup mode selection section that allows said user to select a desired image-pickup mode (col. 8, lines 27-37), applies predetermined processing to the user's image captured in the selected image-pickup mode and transmits the image to said communication apparatus through said communication section (col. 8, lines 8, lines 38-64) .

13. As to claim 21, Maeda discloses, a search support method comprising: a search condition registration step of registering object search conditions (col. 8, lines 10-12); a communication step of detecting a communication apparatus which exists in a

communication area, receiving information about the object under the control of said communication apparatus and transmitting the search conditions registered in said search condition registration section to said communication apparatus (abs., lines 5-9; col. 8, lines 26-28);

a control step of comparing said received information about the object with said registered search conditions (col. 4, lines 66-67), transmitting said comparison result to said communication apparatus (col. 4, lines 61-62), receiving the comparison result from said communication apparatus and outputting a control signal for controlling a reporting operation according to both the transmitted and received comparison results; a reporting step of executing a reporting operation according to said output control signal (col. 4, line 57-col. 5, line 2);

a step of personal information about a user who uses the apparatus and object information such as characteristics and preferences of the person as said object search conditions (col. 8, lines 14-15); a step of confirming, when both said transmitted and received comparison results match, permission to transmit the personal information to said communication apparatus; and a step of transmitting, when the transmission is permitted, said personal information to said communication apparatus (col. 4, line 57-col. 5, line 2).

Maeda, however, does not explicitly disclose, "registration section";



Shimizu, on the other hand, discloses, "registration section" ([0056], lines 1-7).

Both Maeda and Shimizu are of the same field of endeavor, they specifically teach detecting and accessing an object (Maeda: abs., lines 5-9; Shimizu: [0001])

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teachings of Shimizu into Maeda of detecting and accessing a mobile object, that would have allowed users of Maeda to have an useful method, to switching to various modes. (Shimizu: [0001], lines 4-8).

### ***Conclusion***

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Stern et al. (US 20020174035) teaches method and apparatus for placing an item on sale.

Walker (US 6965816) teaches accountable remote and robotic control.

**Contact Information**

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fazlul Quader whose telephone number is 571-270-1905. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5 Alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mohammad Ali can be reached on 571-272-4105. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Fazlul Quader  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2169

*mtal.*  
*SP 2169*